

**Miami-Dade County
Mayor's Mental Health Task Force
Executive Committee Meeting
November 8, 2005**

The Executive Committee of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF) met in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Conference Room 29A, 111 N.W. First Street, Miami, Florida at 2:29 p.m. on November 8, 2005, there being present Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, 11th Judicial District of Florida and Chairman, MMHTF; Mr. Jack Lowell, Vice-Chairman, Codina Group and Co-Chairman, MMHTF; Ms. Silvia Quintana, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Program Supervisor, District 11 – Florida Department of Children and Families and Co-Chairwoman, MMHTF; and Task Force members Mr. Ronald Book, Attorney at Law, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust; Mr. Tim Coffey, Assistant Project Coordinator, 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project; Assistant County Manager Pete Hernandez; Honorable Maria Korvick, Administrative Judge, Probate Division, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida; Mr. David Raymond, Executive Director, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust; and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

The following staff members from the Office of the Mayor were present: Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Project Supervisor; Ms. Marilyn Rey, Project Advisor and Liason; Ms. Maria Robau, Project Manager, Mayor's Mental Health Task Force; and Ms. Elinette Garcia-Navarro, Project Coordinator of Advance.

Also, present were Mr. Marty Lucia and Mr. Gilbert Hernandez-Arranz, Office of Countywide Healthcare Planning.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial District of Florida and Chairman, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF), called the Executive Committee meeting of the MMHTF to order at 2:29 p.m. He noted Miami-Dade County Commissioner Natacha Seijas, Task Force member, would not be attending today's meeting as she was addressing issues in District 13 as a result of Hurricane Wilma.

II. Discussion of Subcommittee Activities, Objectives and Assignments

Judge Leifman explained the purpose of today's meeting was to define the subcommittee structure of the Task Force, including the subject-matter jurisdiction—and the goals and objectives to be achieved by each subcommittee. He noted the subcommittee system comprised the Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee, the Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee, the Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee and the Mental Health Care Finance, Sustainability & Policy Subcommittee. These Subcommittees,

Judge Leifman said, would address the tasks recommended in the Miami-Dade County Grand Jury Report entitled: “Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System: A Recipe for Disaster/A Prescription for Improvement.” He noted Miami-Dade Police Department Director Robert Parker and Chief Assistant State Attorney Don Horn would serve as co-chairs of the Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee, which would be charged with addressing issues pertaining to Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) police training and the expansion of the Jail Diversion Program (JDP).

Mr. Raymond suggested, and Judge Leifman concurred, that an asterisk be placed next to issues that would be reviewed by more than one subcommittee.

Co-Chairman Lowell noted the Executive Committee would be responsible for the majority of the coordination efforts.

Judge Leifman suggested the Task Force develop a five-year plan relating to the proposed mental health diversion facility.

Mr. Raymond suggested that the Grand Jury’s recommendation that state and local government officials provide funding and/or matching dollars to assist in the Jail Diversion Program (JDP) be reviewed by the Mental Health Care Finance, Sustainability & Policy Subcommittee. He noted the Office of Homeless Trust, in conjunction with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, was working on a legislative budget request in the amount of \$1 million dollars.

Judge Leifman noted the Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee would be responsible for funding issues involving shelters and treatment facilities for the diversion population once they were released from jail, and this Subcommittee would share cross-jurisdictional responsibilities with the Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee in terms of funding for the short-term residential facility and a crisis unit.

Referring to the 911 training, Judge Leifman said the Task Force would develop strategies to expand the training program for 911 dispatchers and determine ways to implement these strategies in a final agreement. He suggested the Task Force facilitate Miami-Dade County’s efforts to implement a 911 system that would map mental health related telephone calls to an appropriately-trained officer.

Discussion ensued among the Task Force members regarding the Baker Act.

Responding to Mr. Raymond, Co-Chairwoman Quintana explained that one Mobile Crisis Team was responsible for the entire county, however, the police responded in the event the Baker Act had to be enforced. She noted collaboration with the community mental health centers would be crucial.

Judge Leifman said some of the members of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) conducted their own follow-up calls and he suggested the police be encouraged to conduct similar follow-up calls.

Judge Korvick explained the provisions of the Baker Act, which required that a petition be filed in Civil Court for an ex parte order. She advised that these proceedings were confidential and the files were not opened to police and other agencies. Judge Korvick suggested that it might be appropriate to provide sufficient information to certain parties to facilitate a cohesive, computerized system without disclosing all the details; however, she noted this would have to be conducted on a limited basis, with input from the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the Dade County Bar Association.

In response to Mr. Book's concern regarding mentally ill individuals being transported to intake services in police vehicles as opposed to emergency medical vehicles, Ms. Quintana explained that the police vehicles were used to transport individuals only if violent behavior was exhibited.

Mr. Raymond questioned whether services could be offered to suspected mentally impaired individuals before the police was dispatched in order to reduce the recidivism rate.

Judge Korvick discussed the difficulties involved in administering outpatient treatment to mentally ill patients under the new provision of the Baker Act. She noted this legislation was not being utilized due to the lack of funding availability and the guardian advocates felt this was a function for healthcare professionals.

Judge Leifman suggested that the Task Force develop legislative and financial recommendations to address outpatient treatment under the Baker Act.

Co-Chairwoman Quintana said three committees created in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) would be addressing the outpatient treatment issue and would be receiving feedback from community providers who would be administering the program and identifying the needs and the barriers.

Judge Leifman noted once the committees referenced by Ms. Quintana determined how to address outpatient treatment issues; they could request assistance from the task force in terms of funding and changes to existing legislation.

Judge Leifman expressed concern regarding the criminal component of the Baker Act and spoke in support of a less restrictive method to be used by police officers in administering the Baker Act on children. He noted the Task Force should identify the issues and develop and implement solutions to address these issues.

Mr. Raymond suggested that the Task Force obtain input from the committee chaired by Judge Gersten as they were seeking funding through the Children's Trust for youths released from foster care and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Co-Chairwoman Quintana suggested the Task Force members seek approval from the Board of County Commissioners to allow mentally ill individuals to be taken to the most appropriate receiving facilities.

The Task Force members discussed the proposed mental health diversion facility which would be used to house, treat and provide social services in one location to mentally ill inmates awaiting trial. Judge Leifman noted the Task Force was exploring the possibility of acquiring the South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center from the State to be used as the diversion facility. He further noted \$22 million from the General Obligation Bond would be used to build housing on the property adjacent to the Treatment Center for the inmates. Judge Leifman said this building would substantially relieve the backlog of individuals who were committed to the state hospitals.

Responding to Mr. Raymond's inquiry, Mr. Book said the South Florida Treatment Center site was zoned for institutional use.

Responding to Assistant County Manager Pete Hernandez' inquiry whether the \$22 million would be used to refurbish the Treatment Center or to build on a new site, Judge Leifman and Co-Chairman Lowell said these funds were not site-specific and could be used anywhere.

Mr. Book suggested that a request be made during the upcoming Spring Legislative Session that the State deed the Treatment Center to the County.

Judge Korvick suggested the Task Force explore the possibility of using the Landmark facility to house the mentally ill.

Co-Chairman Lowell suggested the Treatment Center be declared surplus by the Department of Children and Families.

Judge Leifman suggested that the Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee meet to further discuss the potential acquisition of the Treatment Center

Mr. Book said once the Department of Children and Families indicated a willingness to transfer ownership of the Treatment Center to Miami-Dade County, the related legislative issues could be addressed.

Co-Chairwoman Quintana said she would determine the process for transferring the Treatment Center to the County.

Mr. Raymond noted the Task Force also needed to be aware of the necessary permits required by the City of Miami to perform rehabilitative work to the subject building.

Judge Leifman requested that the county attorneys determine the zoning designation and other issues relating to the Treatment Center.

III. Discussion of Format for Public Hearing

Judge Leifman said a list of subcommittee assignments would be distributed at the Task Force meeting scheduled for November 10, 2005 and the Task Force members and members of the public would be invited to serve on the subcommittees. He requested the names of anyone from the public wishing to serve on the subcommittees be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Project Supervisor, explained the process used to schedule subcommittee meetings under the previous Mayor's Mental Health Task Force. He suggested that the future meetings (dates and times) of the subcommittee be determined before adjourning the Task Force meeting on November 10th.

Co-Chairwoman Quintana advised that the next meeting of the Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee had been postponed due to Hurricane Wilma. She noted the subcommittee would meet probably early in December.

Judge Leifman noted the timelines for subcommittees could be adjusted based on the timing of legislative issues.

Judge Korvick advised that she would be unable to attend the Task Force meeting on Thursday, November 10th.

IV. Other Items

Co-Chairman Lowell requested a concise version of the Gap Funding Initiative that he could present to Governor Bush and the Legislature.

In response to Mr. Raymond's inquiry, Judge Leifman suggested Mr. Raymond forward the legislative budget request for \$1 million to Mr. Tim Coffey or Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle.

Mr. Del Valle thanked the Clerk of the Board's office for recording and taking minutes of today's (11/8) meeting.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business to come before the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Honorable Steve Leifman, Chairman
Mayor's Mental Health Task Force